

# New Stories of Old India.

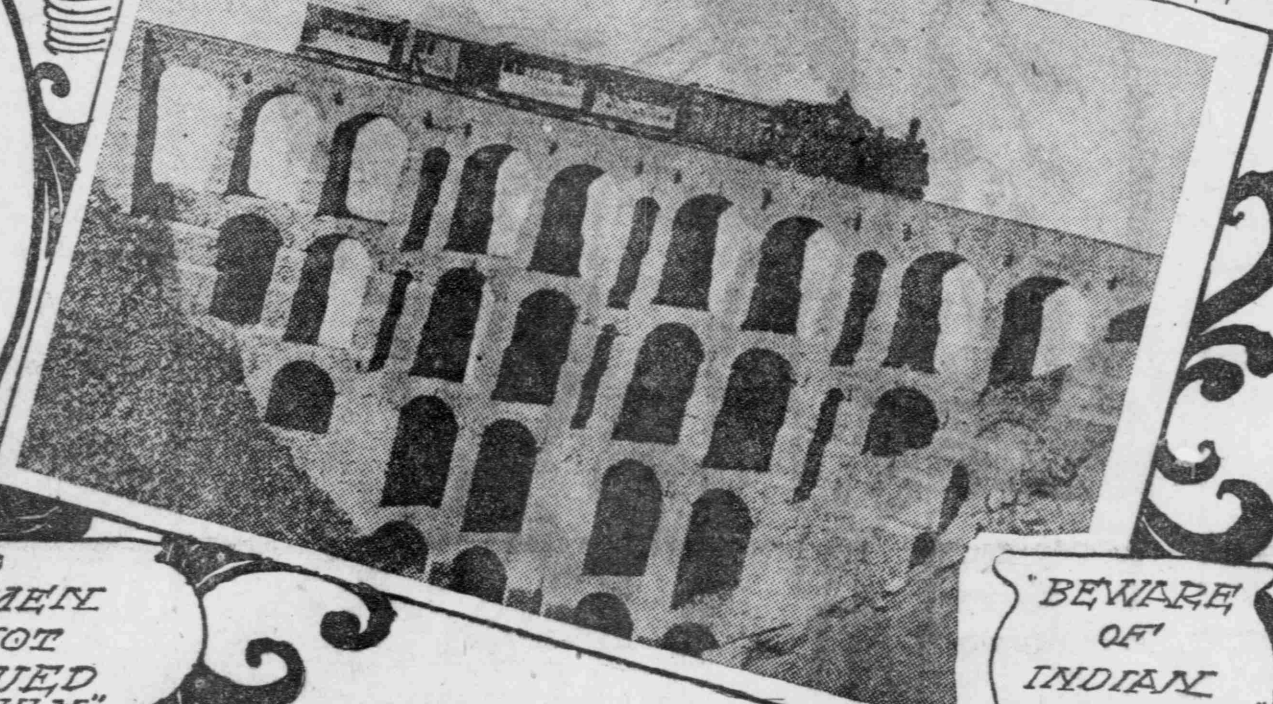
By Frederick J. Haskin.



SHAKH  
CHAMBERS  
OF  
INDIA



OLD  
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AN INDIAN  
RULER

BEWARE  
OF  
INDIAN  
RAILWAYS

Calcutta.—Lives of old women are not valued highly in India. A short time ago General Patterson, the American consul in Calcutta, was invited by a friend to take a ride in an automobile. As they were coming home they turned a corner abruptly, and before the brake could be applied, struck an aged woman who was crossing the street. Not knowing what the consequence of the accident might be, and not wishing to avoid responsibility, the owner of the automobile left his card before proceeding. In a few days he received a statement which read:

"To killing one grandmother, 25 rupees."

This sum is equal to \$25 American money. Not long ago a judge in India was confronted by two men who were involved in a dispute over some money matters. In making a final settlement in a transaction one contended that 700 rupees were due him, while the other insisted that the amount was only 600. There was no evidence except the word of the two parties to the controversy, so the judge was at a loss to determine the merits of the case. He was relieved of the responsibility, however, when the plaintiff proposed that if the defendant would swear by the sacred water of the Ganges river that he owed only 600 rupees, that amount would be accepted in full payment. At first the judge demurred and said that was no way to settle a law suit, but the disputants agreed that it would be a perfectly satisfactory arrangement for both of them, so some of the sacred water was brought into the court room and the final settlement was amicably accomplished.

## More Wives Than Solomon.

The recent visit of the Prince of Wales to India was the cause of the greatest gathering of Rajahs and native princes that has occurred since the great Durbar of Delhi. For a week prior to the arrival of the prince, Bombay fairly swarmed with the dignitaries of up-country potentates. Your interest can hardly fall when a personage attired in numerous and gorgeous trappings is pointed out to you as the ruler of a country larger than Italy, and you are informed that he possesses 500 wives—200 more than Solomon had. The gossip keeps your ears filled with interesting chatter about first one and then another of these native dignitaries. There is one who chartered a large steamer to convey himself and party to the coronation of the present king of England. He took along his own food and water and gods, as well as numerous wives and their attendants. He presented the king with a jeweled sword inscribed with gems valued at 50,000 rupees. He no doubt repented of his extravagance, for upon his return home he found his hand blighted by famine, so he went straightway on another journey—this time a lonely pilgrimage to the Ganges to pray for rain. You conclude that one Rajah must be rather poor when you hear that he has only seventeen wives with him, and you marvel at the lavishness of another when you are told that the largest jewelry store in India was closed during one whole day while sixty of his wives examined the stock and selected whatever pleased their fancy. It was my good fortune to travel on the special train of one of the Rajahs, and it was about like traveling with a circus.

There were dogs, monkeys and polo-parrots without number, and by actual count 104 goats for sacrificial purposes. The retainers numbered 152 persons, and the luggage and equipment occupied several cars. This man was the ruler of a territory equal to about half that of Ireland.

## "Brother of the Morning Star."

These Indian dignitaries indulge in all sorts of fancies and extravagances. One signs himself "The Brother of the Morning Star," and another carries around with him a clock with a diamond pendulum. The favorite wife of one notable decided that she wanted a set of false teeth, and the American dentist who got the job had to put them in without seeing her face. This difficult task was accomplished by the lady wearing a mask with a hole cut for her mouth. The American is reported to have received 5,000 rupees for his work. A physician who was summoned to the harem of one of the

Rajahs told me that he was not permitted to see his patient. She thrust her hand out from behind a screen and he felt of her pulse, and her tongue was presented for his inspection through a slit in the curtain. These precautions were taken because in India it is not proper for a married woman to expose her face to the gaze of any other than her lord and master.

It is a well established fact that it is next to impossible to discourage an American tourist when there is anything unusual to be seen. This was proved by an incident which occurred during the visit of the Prince of Wales to India. At one of the functions requiring full dress there appeared a tall, angular woman attired in a plaid walking suit. The waist of the suit had been made decollete by rolling up the sleeves and turning the collar under. This woman who so brazenly defied the strict rules of dress by this silly makeshift finally attracted the attention of Lady Curzon, who asked an acquaintance: "Who on earth is that impossible creature over there?" When told that she was a tourist from her own home town of Chicago, her ladyship had nothing more to say.

Stories of the Hospital.

A hospital assistant told me about some amusing experiences in that institution. Unexpected difficulties are met with in even the simple task of receiving patients. Of course, when medicine is issued to anyone the record must be entered in the books, but on such an occasion the husband when asked the name of his wife will reply: "Who knows the name of woman?" Ask the wife her name and she just giggles and hides behind her veil. This is because it is considered improper for a woman's name to be pronounced in the presence of her husband or other male relatives. It is almost impossible to fix dates of any occurrence, even the birth of a child. Ask a father the age

of his baby and after some hesitation he will reply that it was born "about the time of the rice planting," or "soon after the end of the harvest." No amount of insistence can establish the age of the infant any nearer than this. The ideas that people have about what ails them are often extremely amusing. One man is very much distressed because he has not sneezed for three months, and another is disturbed by the beating of his own heart and wants it stopped. A man will appear at the hospital complaining of some trivial thing, and the doctor will at once see that he is suffering from something else. When told of his additional malady he is very likely to reply: "Oh, that will be all right as soon as the wind blows from the west." He will scorn the proffered treatment and go his way content in the belief that his change in the direction of the wind is

all that is necessary to restore him to his usual state of health.

## Difficulties of Advertising.

India is almost a hopeless case for the advertising experts. This is true because 28 per cent of the population cannot read. The Mohammedans, numbering 63,000,000, cannot be reached through pictorial devices because they believe that the reproduction of anything that has life is usurping the power of the Creator. The Hindus, who constitute the bulk of the population, do not believe in the destruction of any form of animal life, and consequently will not buy many products that sell readily to other races. The publishers in India are so old-fashioned and slow that they exhaust the patience of the modern advertising agent. The representative of one of the best concerns in the world told me that he sent a letter of inquiry to 250 publishers, asking them for specimen copies of their papers and a quotation of advertising rates. Only sixteen of the entire number replied at all, and most of these told him they did not give papers away; that if he wanted a copy to send 8 cents in stamps. This agent is now trying to reach the people by sending men through the streets mounted on gaily caparisoned camels. Samples are distributed to the crowds which congregate, and the merits of the goods are explained. However, this method is regarded as too slow and expensive, and it is likely that the company will consider its investment in India a bad one and withdraw from the field.

## The English Are Slow.

India is so slow in a business way that it almost breaks the heart of a western hustler when he tries to do business according to the antiquated standards in vogue there. Would it not be exasperating to have to wait thirty-two days for a reply to a letter from a man doing business across the street? Especially when you knew your customer was at home and eventually expected to do business with you. His assistant says that he is somewhat behind with his work, but it is noticed that he is never late at the club or tardy at the tennis court. You talk with an Englishman about the slow-going methods of doing business, and he will excuse the fact by saying: "Look what swine we have to work with"—meaning his Indian assistants—but in reality he is as much to blame as his help.

In a bank it takes three men to sign a paper. One holds the blotter and another carries the document away when it is signed. The Englishman has his dog and his pony boy. When he goes to the tennis court or the swimming pool his boy goes along to carry his racket or bathing suit. It makes a grown-up man real tired to see these Anglo-Indians pacing around with their retinues of petty assistants and carriers. If they would pay more attention to business instead of straining themselves for stylish effect they would doubtless find a partial explanation of the reason why the plodding German is getting their trade away from them.

## Beware of Indian Railways.

A great deal has been said about the cheapness and excellence of the Indian railway service, but to all who read it say beware! First-class travel in India is not equal to the accommodations offered by the freight trains in America. You are piled into an apartment with other travelers, who may have enough luggage to fill a freight car. When an Anglo-Indian goes traveling he takes along his bath tub and tent, his blankets and boots and saddles, and his numerous tin boxes and trunks, the latter often being elongated chests about the size of coffins.

You have to carry your own bedding and towels. Your journey may be for days through the desert, but there is no drinking water in the car. Some trains carry dining cars, but you must wait for the train to stop before you can get into them. Once inside the diner, you have to remain there for several hours after you have finished your meal. The rolling stock is poorly constructed, poorly lighted and poorly cared for. On the whole the railway system in India is an argument against government ownership.

Fully 20,000 people are killed annually by snakes in India, the deadly cobra being responsible for the most of these fatalities. The numerous snake charmers who appear before the eyes of certain visitors are disappointing. They attract little attention from anyone except the tourist, and he loses interest as soon as he is told that there is little profit from handling the reptiles on account of their venom having been removed. This is accomplished by forcing them to bite cloths at frequent intervals. However, the wild snakes are extremely deadly, and the barefooted native who stumbles upon one lies down to die with the belief that there is no help for him—that his "fate is written on his forehead."

The census of India was taken recently during one night. This was accomplished by apportioning the entire country into small districts, the population of which was enumerated and classified between suns. This count showed that there are thirty cities in India with over 100,000 inhabitants each and that in some quarters the density runs as high as 552 to the square mile, which is undoubtedly the greatest in the world.

# THE GUINEA PIG PROVED IT

That dandruff, itching scalp and falling hair, are caused by a germ or parasite is now recognized by dermatologists everywhere.

A notable demonstration was by Drs. Lassar and Bishop, who took dandruff scales from the head of a student who was losing his hair and having made a pomade of them with vaseline, rubbed the same upon a guinea-pig, and the pig became bald. (See George Thomas Jackson, M. D., on diseases of skin, 4th edition).

Newbro's Herpicide kills the germ that causes dandruff, itching scalp and falling hair. Keep your scalp in a sanitary condition with Herpicide and extraordinary results will follow. Stops itching of the scalp instantly. Try it.

At Drug Stores. Send 10c in stamps to The Herpicide Co., Dept. N., Detroit, Mich. for a sample.

**Smith Drug Co.**  
SPECIAL AGENTS.

Calcutta has 1,100,000 people, making it the second largest city in the British empire. One striking result of this census was the revelation that there are 25,000,000 widows in India, most of them little girls who were betrothed while children and whose husbands died before they reached maturity. Although these little wives have never left the parental roof, their marriage being technically no more than an engagement, according to Indian custom they are widows and cannot wed again. It is now legal for them to remarry, but the non-observance of the law is so general that the occasional marriage of one of them is regarded by the newspapers as an extraordinary event. Their pitiful plight is one of the saddest things in sorrowful India.

# You Don't Have To Pay Two Prices For Your Clothes.

We are going to pretty near give our Clothes away during the next 10 days, commencing Tuesday, Feb. 6, and that's saying a good deal. We have 1,000 good, stylish, up-to-date Suits in our Store which we are going to clear out. No shoddy! Everything new and up-to-date, and one of the reasons, in fact, the main reason for these reductions, is that we have the exclusive right in the State of Utah to sell



For The Next  
**10 Days**

NO LONGER. NO LESS.  
We are going to clean up our stock. Nothing reserved. If ever bargains were appreciated, they will be now. For we intend to carry none but the high-class Wardrobe system of Clothes in the future.  
See windows. No reservations. Blacks, blues and everything goes. Hats, Underwear, Sweaters—in fact, everything goes in the whirlwind cut.

**THE FAMOUS  
WARDROBE  
SYSTEM  
OF FINE CLOTHES.**

Commencing  
**Tuesday, Feb. 6th,**  
Suits from \$12.50  
to \$16.00, for **\$7.90**  
Suits from \$16.00  
up to \$28.00, for **\$12.00**

**THE LEADER,**  
175 MAIN STREET.

See our ad. in Monday's paper.